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CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 26.14
TITLE: ULTRASOUND (GENERAL)

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(a)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (e)(19), and (g)(36)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

November 1, 1983

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

76506-76999 and 93303-93350

III. DESCRIPTION

An ultrasound diagnostic procedure is the visualization of deep structures of the body by recording the reflections (echoes) of pulses of ultrasonic waves directed into the tissues. Ultrasound is used for diagnostic and guidance purposes.

IV. POLICY

A. Ultrasound procedures for diagnosis, guidance, and post-operative evaluation of surgical procedures may be cost shared.

B. Maternity related ultrasound is limited to the diagnosis and management of conditions that constitute a high-risk pregnancy or which present a reasonable probability of neonatal complications.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Breast echograph (CPT 76645) may be presumed to be medically necessary in the following circumstances:

1. When mammography is inconclusive
2. Evaluation of a densely fibrous breast

3. A positive mammography to distinguish a cyst from a solid lesion
4. In the evaluation of a discrete breast mass in a young female

B. Echoencephalograph (CPT 76506) for a neonate may be presumed to be medically necessary in the following circumstances:

1. To evaluate the risk for intracranial bleeding.
2. To evaluate the significance of a history of perinatal asphyxia.
3. To evaluate demonstrated significant neurological findings.
4. To evaluate or localize intracranial abnormalities.
5. For post-operative evaluation of neurosurgical procedures.

C. Bone density studies (CPT 76977) are covered under the following circumstances:

1. The diagnosis and monitoring of osteoporosis.
2. The diagnosis and monitoring of osteopenia.

3. Patients must present with signs and symptoms of bone disease or be considered at high-risk for developing osteoporosis. High-risk factors which have been identified as the standard of care by the ACOG (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) include the following:

a. Women who are estrogen-deficient and at clinical risk for osteoporosis and naturally or surgically post-menopausal women who have not been on long-term HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy).

b. Individuals who have vertebral abnormalities.

c. Individuals receiving long-term glucocorticoid (steroid) therapy.

d. Individuals with primary hyperparathyroidism.

e. Individuals with positive family history of osteoporosis.

f. Any other high-risk factor identified by ACOG as the standard of care.

D. Pelvis diagnostic ultrasound when ordered by a physician if there is a personal history of biopsy-proven benign ovarian disease and a mother, sister, or daughter has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

- A. An ultrasound diagnostic procedure which is not medically necessary.
- B. Bone density studies for routine screening for osteoporosis.
- C. Ultrasound for routine screening for breast disease.
- D. Ultrasound performed to determine the sex of an unborn child.

END OF POLICY